

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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INFO CINCPAC

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AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1208

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ID

SUBJECT: THE PDI CO-OPTED

REF: JAKARTA 0729 (DTG 171000Z JAN 78) (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. THE PDI HAS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY JUMPED INTO THE GOVERNMENT CAMP, EFFUSIVELY ENDORSING SUHARTO'S RE-ELECTION. AS A REWARD FOR PDI'S DOWN-THE-LINE SUPPORT IN THE MPR (AND TO WIN A FEW POINTS WITH SUKARNOISTS), THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO REFURBISH THE GRAVESITE OF EX-PRESIDENT SUKARNO, STILL A HERO TO THE NATTIONALIST ELEMENT WHICH DOMINATES PDI. THE BACKSTAGE PUPPETEER SHAPING PDI'S ACTIVITIES IS PROBABLY SUHARTO'S POLITICAL TROUBLE-SHOOTER ALI MURTOPO, WHO REPORTEDLY ALREADY HAS PLANS TO OUST THE MOST ANTI-GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS OF THE PDI. END SUMMARY.

2. THE INDONESIAN DEOMOCRACY PARTY (PDI) HAS BEEN AT LEAST TEMPORARILY CO-OPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. AT A GOVERNMENT-DOMINATED CELEBRATION OF THE PARTY'S FIFTH BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK, THE PDI "OFFICIALLY" AND
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EFFUSIVELY ENDORSED THE RE-ELECTION OF SUHARTO AND PROMISED COMPLETE COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN THE UPCOMING MPR SESSION, INCLUDING "TOTAL" BACKING FOR THE PALACE DRAFT OF THE GUIDELINES FOR STATE POLICY (GBHN) AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTROVERSIAL PRESCRIPTION FOR PANCASILA, WHICH GIVES PROMINENT MENTION TO JAVANESE MYSTICAL BELIEFS (KEPERCAYAAN). THE FEATURED

SPEAKERS AT THE BIRTHDAY PARTY WERE ALI MURTOPO, PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S POLITICAL TROUBLE-SHOOTER, WHO PLAYED WITH KEY ROLE IN SHAPING THE "COMPROMISE" SETTLEMENT OF THE PDI'S RECENT SPLIT, AND TWO LEADERS OF THE PARTY'S PRO-GOVERNMENT WING: MOHAMMAD ISNAENI, PDI VICE-CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENT, AND HARDJANTHO SUMODISASTRO, A PARTY CHAIRMAN WHO READ SUHARTO'S BIRTHDAY GREETING TO THE PDI.

3. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS IN PAPERS CONTROLLED BY MURTOPO, HE WAS THE HIT OF THE SHOW. AFTER RECEIVING A WILDLY ENTHUSIASTIC GREETING FROM THE PDI FAITHFUL, WHO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HIS MEDIATION IN PDI'S PROBLEMS, MURTOPO WAS LITERALLY LIFTED ONTO THEIR SHOULDERS WHEN HE ANNOUNCED SUHARTO'S INTENTION TO REFURBISH THE GRAVE OF FORMER PRESIDENT SUKARNO, STILL A HERO TO MANY IN THE PDI'S POTENT NATIONALIST WING. MURTOPO FURTHER STIRRED THE CROWD BY DEMANDING THE "EXTERMINATION" OF THOSE "POLITICAL VAGABONDS" WHO ARE TRYING TO DESTROY PANCASILA AND THE CONSTITUTION OF 1945.

4. THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE PDI'S JAKARTA BRANCH TOLD US RECENTLY THAT MURTOPO HAS TAKEN FIRM CONTROL OF PDI AFFAIRS FOR THE PALACE. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, MURTOPO HAS ALREADY LAID OUT TO HIS PARTY ALLIES HIS PLAN TO CONVENE AN OCTOBER PARTY CONGRESS, TO OUST PDI'S RELATIVELY ANTI-GOVERNMENT GENERAL CHAIRMAN SANUSI AND HIS PRINCIPAL

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PARTY FOLLOWERS AND TO INSTALL THE MORE TRACTABLE HARDJANTHO AS NEW PDI LEADER. TO CAMOUFLAGE THE PRO-PALACE NATURE OF THE MOVE, ISNAENI AT THE SAME TIME WOULD ALSO BE "OUSTED."

5. COMMENT. THE GOVERNMENT, BESET BY BROADER POLITICAL PROBLEMS, HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO ELIMINATE ONE IRRITANT BY TAKING FIRM CONTROL OF THE PDI. BY SAYING KIND WORDS ABOUT SUKARNO IN THE PROCESS, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY HOPES TO SCORE A FEW POINTS WITH THE LARGE BODY OF SUKARNOISTS WHO STILL WIELD CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN PARTS OF JAVA AND WOULD BE VALUABLE ALLIES IN ANY POLITICAL SHOWDOWN WITH THE MOSLEMS OVER KEPERCAYAAN. WHETHER THIS TWO-PRONGED TACTIC SUCCEEDS IN THE LONGER RUN DEPENDS IN PART ON HOW DEEPLY THE PLANNED PDI PURGE CUTS. WHILE THE MOST OUTSPOKENLY ANTI-GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS FROM THE PARTY'S NATIONALIST WING APPEAR DOOMED, THE RELATIVELY INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN POLITICIANS MAY SURVIVE, TO SERVE AS AMUTED VOICE OF PARTY DISSENT AND AS A POTENTIAL BASE FOR MORE AGGRESSIVE PARTY FORCES TO STAGE A LATER COMEBACK, AS THEY DID AFTER THE PALACE'S LAST ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER THE PDI IN 1975.

MASTERS

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